

## IV. Resources and Management Issues in the Downeast Plan Area

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### DONNELL POND UNIT

#### 1. Character of the Landbase

The Donnell Pond Unit encompasses 15,384 acres located in the townships of T7 SD, T9 SD, T10 SD; and the towns of Franklin and Sullivan. The Unit is best regarded for its array of mountain peaks and numerous lakes and ponds in close proximity to the coastline.

The original acquisition of the Donnell Pond Unit took place in 1988 through a complex, five-way land trade and purchase transaction. Previous owners of the property were Prentiss and Carlisle, Diamond Occidental Corporation, and the Bryan family. In 1994, the Bureau acquired 6,915 additional acres from the Pierce family, including much of the frontage and adjacent lands to Spring River Lake, the southern slopes of Tunk Mountain, and frontage on the north and eastern shore of Tunk Lake. Separate transactions in 1998 and 2001 with the Noyes family and the Fiery Mountain Trust resulted in the acquisition of the Card Mill boat launching site, and the Fiery Mountain/Little Pond area. An additional transaction with International Paper in 2003 resulted in the acquisition of the so-called "Tilden Block," a 274-acre in-holding north of Spring River Lake and east of Tilden Pond. Lastly, a 4.5-acre parcel located across from Partridge Peninsula along the southwest shoreline of Tunk Lake in T7 SD was acquired from the Guy P. Gannett Trust. This property came with deed development restrictions and will be used primarily for primitive recreation.

**Acreage Breakdown by Town/Township**

<b>Town/Township</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Franklin	1,219
Sullivan	963
T7 SD	214
T9 SD	1,459
T10 SD	11,529
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,384</b>

In addition to the fee lands, there are two Bureau-held conservation easements within the Unit totaling 468 acres; including 344 acres in T9 SD, part of the original 1988 acquisition, and a later acquisition of an abutting 124 acres in Franklin. The easements include approximately 3.4 miles of frontage on Donnell Pond, and functions to protect scenic values as seen from within the Unit. There are no provisions for public access or recreation on these easements.

The Unit is adjacent to two parcels of private land owned by the Bryan family, containing 1,400 acres in conservation easements held by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. These parcels protect frontage on the east side of Tunk Lake and encompass the summit of Catherine Mountain. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife holds six other easements on nearby private lands, which likewise provide protection for viewsheds and lakeshore quality.

The terrain on the Unit is generally rolling to mountainous, with much of the lowlands being wetlands and open water. Approximately 91% of the Unit is forested, with most of the remainder

being open wetland and high elevation ledge outcroppings. Wizard Pond, with its associated wetland, is considered a high elevation water body (830 feet) in the Black Mountain area; similar wetland types are found throughout the Unit. The highest peaks in the Unit are found on Black Mountain (1,049 and 1,094 feet). The summit of Tunk Mountain (1,140) is on private land.

**Mountain Tops and Elevations**

<b>Mountain</b>	<b>Elevation</b>
Schoodic	1060
Black (west peak)	1, 049
Black (east peak)	1.094
Caribou	960
Tunk*	1,140
Catherine*	962
Round	592
Fiery	553

\* Note: The summits of Tunk and Catherine Mts. are on private land

Donnell Pond has exceptional recreational and scenic resource values. The Land Use Regulation Commission's "Wildlands Lake Assessment" (Chapter 10 Appendix C, Land Use Districts and



Standards) rates the Pond's fisheries, scenic quality, and shoreline character as outstanding. Donnell Pond (pictured left, from Schoodic Mt.), Spring River Lake, and Tunk Lake (with its notable clear waters, sand beaches, coves, and forested shorelands) were given the highest resource rating; Rainbow Pond, and Wizard Pond are picturesque remote ponds in the Black Mountain/Caribou Mountain area, which flow into

Tunk Lake. Shillalah Pond (pictured right) is a remote pond which flows into Donnell Pond.



The Spring River Lake parcel north of Route 182 includes a number of remote small ponds in close proximity to Tunk Mountain, including the southern third



of Anderson Pond, Little Long Pond, Mud Pond, Salmon Pond (pictured left) and Tilden Pond. Except for a seasonal camp on Anderson Pond and one on the Tilden block east of Tilden Pond, there is no development within this portion of the Unit with the exception of an abandoned road system connecting Spring River Lake, Tilden Pond, Anderson Pond, and areas on the west side of Downing Bog. Towards the north and east of Spring River Lake is

Downing Bog, an extensive wetland area having significant ecological and wildlife habitat value. When water levels are sufficient, Tunk Stream provides an adventuresome upstream paddle to Spring River Lake when water levels are adequate. The acquisition of the Spring River Lake parcel also included much of the frontage on Tunk Lake with its notable clear waters. Nearby Long Pond is entirely within the parcel, as well as the northern one-half of Round Pond.

Little Pond in the Town of Franklin (pictured right) is a remote pond offering outstanding views of Schoodic Mountain and Schoodic Nubble. With the exception of an old hunting camp there is no development around this pond.



State Route 183 provides the primary roaded access to the Unit and to Donnell Pond, along with access to the Schoodic, Black, and Caribou Mountain trail systems. The road system is also the primary access for camp and home owners along Flanders Pond south of the Unit.

#### Lakes and Ponds in the Donnell Pond Unit

Lake/Pond	Town/Township	Total Acres	Shoreline within the Unit (miles)	% shoreline within the Unit
Donnell Pond (fee)	Franklin/T7 SD	1,120	8	66
Donnell Pond (easement)	T7 SD		3.4	20
Shillalah Pond	T10 SD	17	1.5	100
Tunk Lake	T10 SD	2,010	7	50
Rainbow Pond	T10 SD	17	1	100
Wizard Pond	T10 SD	3	.25	100
Spring River Lake	T10 SD	704	7	66
Tilden Pond	T10 SD	36	1.5	100
Little Long Pond	T10 SD	55	2.5	100
Mud Pond	T10 SD	8	.50	100
Salmon Pond	T10 SD	10	.75	100
Anderson Pond	T10 SD	39	.5	33
Long Pond	T10 SD	205	5	100
Round Pond	T10 SD	205	1.5	25
Little Pond	Franklin	40	1.5	100
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,349</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>66%</b>

## **2. Resources and Management Issues**

### ***NATURAL AND GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES***

The mountains and lakes of this region form a distinctive landmark in the east coastal region of the state. The Unit lies at the center of a 70 square-mile area known as the Tunk Pluton, a granite intrusion rich in quartz and feldspar that over time weathers to coarse acidic soils. The soils are generally thin, and tend to be moderately to excessively well drained. The combination of topography, bedrock geology, and shallow soils has produced a fire-prone environment; producing a diverse mosaic of natural communities. In areas with moderate soil accumulation, the post-fire forest type is typically aspen and birch. Where thin soils occur in the higher terrain on open balds that have burned, black and red spruce are the dominant species. The vegetation is transitional between that of the spruce-fir/northern hardwoods typical of northern Maine, and the more temperate forest characteristic of southern Maine. A number of species are near their range limits, including common juniper, golden heather, and highbush blueberry. In addition, red oak, which is abundant on the Unit, rarely forms large stands to the north or east. A 21-acre old growth spruce stand southeast of Wizard Pond, located in the saddle of Black Mountain, has been given special protection status for a number of years.

Adjacent to Little Pond in Franklin is a 120-acre blueberry barren, part of the Little Pond/Fiery Mountain acquisition, which had been actively managed until 1999. The soils on the high ground portion of the barren are thin and fragile, and not currently suitable for management. The lower portions of the barren have been productive in the past, but are in need of maintenance.



The unique combination of features and factors described above led to the designation of two noncontiguous areas as Ecological Reserves, totaling 5,950 acres, and containing 17 exemplary natural communities as identified by the Maine Natural Areas Program. Ecological Reserves are areas of ecological significance where the primary management activity is scientific research. One area (1,940 acres, pictured left) lies east of Donnell Pond, and encompasses much of the terrain of

Black and Caribou Mountains. Black Mountain also supports two species of rare sandworts, which are on Maine's list of endangered and threatened plants. Special protection efforts will need to be implemented in this area due to the high volume of recreational use. The second area (4,010 acres, pictured right) lies north of Spring River Lake, and includes the southern slope of Tunk Mountain, the adjacent small ponds, and the extensive wetlands of Downing Bog to the east. The property boundary to the east lies close to this wetland area, and is not well delineated, making it vulnerable to encroachment.



As part of the management regime for the Reserves and the important plant communities within them, baseline data has been collected and will be utilized as part of a long term study.

In addition to the Reserves, rare plants and an exemplary Low Summit Bald community have been discovered on the summit of Schoodic Mountain, which includes the two species of rare sandworts found on Black Mountain. Special protection efforts will need to continue in this area due to the high volume of recreational use. The Unit boundary currently includes only one-half of the summit of Schoodic Mt.; the other being in private ownership. Another rare plant species, Wiegand's sedge, has been found on the edge of Wizard Pond and within the wet woods near Downing Bog. The summit of Round Mountain also supports an exemplary Low Summit Bald community, where recent evidence of disturbance from recreational use was in evidence.

The Natural Resource Inventory for the Unit was updated in 2003, which incorporated findings from the original 1991 inventory; a subsequent inventory of the Spring River Lake/Tunk Lake parcel completed in 1994, and new inventory information for the Fiery Mountain/Little Pond parcel.

### ***Summary of Management Issues and Concerns***

- The open balds on Schoodic and Black Mountains include exemplary Low Summit Bald natural communities and rare plants (mountain sandwort), which is of concern due to the significant recreational activity on the mountains.
- In addition to areas within Ecological Reserves, important community types were also identified on Round Mountain, and in a wetland on the southeastern portion of Spring River Lake. Round Mountain is receiving motorized recreational use that could impact the natural communities identified there.
- The blueberry barren near Little Pond had been actively managed until recently, and will require extensive maintenance to restore its potential. There is also considerable ATV traffic on these barrens, which has eroded away the thin soils along the high ground of the barren where the soils are thin.
- The township line along the east side of the Spring River Lake Ecological Reserve is difficult to find, making it vulnerable to encroachment from abutting landowners.

### ***HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES***

The historic/cultural resources on the Donnell Pond Unit constitute a blend of past land use activities that contribute to the unique character of the Downeast region. These uses include the presence of Native Americans, logging, milling, nineteenth century settlements, recreation, and other activities of cultural importance. The formal designation of the Blackwoods Byway along Route 182 is significant as many of the historic and cultural resources in the Unit are located along the corridor.

*Nomenclature.* Little is known about the place names associated with the Donnell Pond Unit. The word "schoodic" is Abenaki (Malecite) and means "trout place" or "point of land." Two of the water features—Tilden Pond and the Card Mill Stream—were named for 1881 landowners. The word "Tunk" is Abenaki for "the principal stream." References to "Black," such as Blacks Woods and Black Mountain refer to a Colonel John Black who had built a family fortune in this region following the War of 1812. He was one of the first to realize the economic potential of Maine's forests. He managed land for wealthy Philadelphia investor William Bingham, who owned vast amounts of largely uninhabited land in the Downeast area.

*Native American Sites.* Archaeologists from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission have taken surveys of the area. Despite the high probability that Native Americans occupied or utilized certain areas within the Unit, nothing of significance has yet been discovered. Shorelines, in particular, are likely to be sites of early human activity.

*Catherine Mountain.* During the nineteenth century, attempts were made to extract gold, silver, and molybdenum from Catherine Mountain with little success, the evidence of this activity barely visible today. Remnants of its associated farmhouse and prohibition era dance hall have not been found. A legend of a woman who became lost one evening after leaving the dance hall, and dying of exposure as a result, lives on as folklore. Occasional sightings of this woman, dressed in black and wandering the nearby highway, has become part of that lore.

*Tunk Lake.* For nearly two hundred years before the advent of refrigeration, ice from the lake was harvested during the winter and stored in sawdust-filled icehouses. A lakeside fish hatchery near the current Inland Fisheries and Wildlife boat landing supplied small “fry” fish for sport fishing until the 1970’s. The lake was also a favorite summer recreation getaway for noted Maine humorist Marshall Dodge, made famous by his “Bert and I” recordings. Many visitors from the recent past reached the lake by floatplane.

*Dynamite Brook, Dynamite Brook Road.* Long before the Bureau acquired the property, state employees, while upgrading the road, discovered old dynamite in the nearby brook, undoubtedly left over from the mining era. This led to the commonly accepted name for the previously unnamed brook and road. About 200-300 yards west of the bridge along the north side of the road was an old logging camp, of which only the well remains today.

*Wickyp Estate - Tunk Lake.* Located on the southern shoreline of Tunk Lake is the site of the former “Wickyp Estate,” which from 1937 was the summer home of pioneer aviator and polar explorer Admiral Richard E. Byrd and his family. Admiral Byrd had planned three of his Antarctic expeditions, wrote his last book *Alone*, and drafted what became the “Antarctic Treaty of 1959” while at the estate.

The estate was originally developed by the Eagle Mountain Lake Club in the late 1920’s. Its members were Florida millionaires who wished to vacation in Maine during the summer. The main structure was completed in 1929. Admiral Byrd and his wife first visited the estate in 1933 as guests of a friend. As a result of the Great Depression and the insolvency of some of the club members, the property became available for purchase, and Byrd secured it with a mortgage. Designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1970, Wickyp was destroyed by fire in July 1984, and its landmark was withdrawn. Only the four chimneys of the main house remain.

### ***Summary of Management Issues and Concerns***

- Spring River and Tunk Lakes, along with the Long and Round Pond shorelines are likely areas of Native American encampments; any soil disturbance in these areas will require further consultation with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.
- The Blackwoods Byway provides access to much of the history and culture of the area, and an opportunity for interpretation.

## ***FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES***

The combination of acidic bedrock, infertile soils, and abrupt topography provide habitats evaluated as being of poor to fair quality in this region of the state. Vegetative diversity is rather limited, with extensive burns having taken place in the Caribou Mountain - Rainbow Pond area in the late 1940's. Higher elevations on the Unit support most of the softwood forest stands, with hardwood forest cover predominating at the lower elevations. Steep slopes, lack of extensive lower elevation softwood cover, and generally poor vegetative diversity are major limitations to wildlife populations of deer, bear, ruffed grouse, and red squirrels.

Several aerial surveys have so far indicated no presence of wintering deer anywhere on the Unit during restrictive snow conditions. However, the area of softwood within Redman Brook Valley east of Donnell Pond provides the best potential for this, and would benefit from timber management to increase the density of the softwood. This would also enhance habitat for fisher, red squirrel, porcupine, and a variety of song birds such as kinglets, solitary vireos, red breasted nuthatches, and various warblers.

The lakes and ponds throughout the Unit support diverse populations of both warm and cold water fish. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has surveyed many of the ponds on the Unit and has published summaries containing fisheries, water depth, and water quality information. Invasive aquatics continue to be of concern to the Bureau's habitat management program. The Bureau will work closely with IF&W and local groups to help monitor and manage this issue.



Three notable wetlands are found on the Unit adding a degree of habitat diversity. Downing Bog (pictured left), the more significant of the wetlands, lies north and east of Spring River Lake and supports several important plant community types. Gill Bog, immediately north of Shillalah Pond and south of the Route 182 scenic byway, supports habitat for waterfowl and wading birds. A large wetland to the southwest of Rainbow Pond supports a beaver population.

Several loon nesting sites occur on Donnell Pond. A water access campsite on the shoreline of Martin Ridge Cove, constructed after adoption of the 1991 Plan, was discontinued due its proximity to one of these sites, but still receives occasional use. Loons can be found on several other water bodies throughout the Unit. Bald eagle and osprey sightings are common throughout the Unit. An osprey nest on the shore of Donnell Pond is protected by the riparian buffer around the pond. The eagle nest located in Downing Bog is mapped and protected under Maine's Essential Habitat law. Recent eagle nesting along the southern shoreline of Spring River Lake west of the day use area is currently under evaluation by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

### ***Summary of Management Issues and Concerns***

- A loon nesting site on the northeast side of Donnell Pond in Martin Ridge Cove needs to be monitored because of its proximity to a recently closed campsite that continues to receive occasional use.
- Timber management to enhance softwood cover in Redman Brook Valley could encourage its use as a deer wintering area, while providing benefits to other animal species.
- Management considerations need to be made for nesting of eagles along the southern shoreline of Spring River Lake near Tunk Stream.
- Invasive plants pose an ongoing threat to lakes and ponds within the Plan area.



## ***RECREATION AND VISUAL RESOURCES***

The Donnell Pond Unit offers excellent opportunities for remote and semi-remote recreational experiences. The quality of the lakes and ponds, along with its miles of undeveloped shoreline, sand beaches, hiking trails, and campsites in scenic surroundings combine to make this Unit of high recreational value for a variety of users. The recreation management goal for the Unit has been to maintain its remote to semi-remote natural character, while developing and maintaining facilities and opportunities that best take advantage of these attributes. The extensive sand beaches of Donnell Pond (Schoodic Beach pictured right) make this area an increasingly popular destination for day users and campers. A combination of scenic surroundings and the pond's popularity for boating provide an attractive setting for camping and day use, and give this area a quality and experience often sought after within Maine's state park system.



*Day Use and Camping.* Designated areas for swimming, picnicking, and camping are located at Schoodic and Redmans Beach on Donnell Pond, and for day use at the end of the old "Hay Rack Road" off from the Route 182 Byway on Spring River Lake - all accessed by foot or by water. Schoodic beach, a one-half mile walk from a parking area and three-mile boat ride from the Card Mill Landing in Franklin, is by far the most popular site on the Unit. Until recently, the Schoodic Beach area was largely unsupervised, becoming the locus for significant amounts of vandalism and negative social behavior. Commitments to increase supervision have helped to deter these



negative impacts in recent years, along with ongoing efforts to further delineate the day use areas from the camping areas. A similar situation occurs on Redmans Beach (left), which is primarily used for camping. This area has become popular with summer camp groups, who often monopolize sites intended for family-sized parties. Efforts have been ongoing to further delineate the day use and camping areas, to provide some space for groups on Redmans Beach, and to look for site alternatives in other areas. A total of fourteen water-accessible campsites are located on Donnell Pond and four on

Tunk Lake. A trail located at the end of the Dynamite Brook Road provides foot access to the Redmans Beach camping and day use area. Walk-to campsites are also located on the small ponds off the Tunk Mountain trail system. The day use area on Spring River Lake (old Hay Rack Road) is a 150-yard walk from the Route 182 parking area, and was designed as a hand carry boat launching site. The site, with its small sand beach, however, is used primarily for swimming and picnicking, and receives little use for launching of boats, due to the trail's slope from the parking lot.



*Boat Launching Sites.* The Bureau manages several boat launching areas around the Unit, including the Card Mill site on the west side of Donnell Pond (pictured) - a graveled site suitable for trailered launching. It is not unusual during the spring,

summer, and fall seasons to see overflow parking along the access road to this site, having increased in popularity since acquisition and site improvements took place in 2000. Another boat access site is located on Long Pond off from the Route 182 Byway. The driveway and launching area are mostly within the State Department of Transportation right-of-way, and has been a significant traffic safety hazard for many years. Only large enough for trailering of small boats, it has been considered for relocation since acquisition of the property. Long Pond is also listed in the state's "Strategic Plan for Providing Public Access to Maine Water for Boating and Fishing" because of its fishery. These listings are also a primary focus for the Bureau's Boating Facilities Division. Nearby Round Pond is also on this list, although two-wheel vehicle access to the pond has not been possible since long before state ownership.

No designated public area has been available for the launching of trailered boats on Spring River Lake, with boating traffic being limited to private campowners on the lake. The lake has also been identified in the "Strategic Plan for Providing Public Access to Maine Waters for Boating and Fishing" as a priority for providing better access to the general public (listed in Appendix B-2 and B-4, with a rating of 6, with 12 being the highest). There has been an informal site used for trailered launching, located just west of the Hay Rack Road day use area, which has been under a private camping use agreement since before state ownership. With its short, easy access from the Route 182 Byway, this has been cause for occasional conflict between the lessee and members of the public who wish to use the site. This site has been identified as the best location within the state ownership to provide trailered boat access, although shallowness and size of the site would limit the size and number of boats that could use it.

The boat launching facility and day use area on Tunk Lake along the Route 182 Byway is owned and managed by Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, although the Bureau has provided some limited maintenance assistance from time to time.

*Hiking.* A developed network of hiking trails can be found throughout the Unit, with the central hub being the Schoodic Beach parking and public use area. The summit of Schoodic Mountain is one of the more popular trail destinations, being a relatively short, one-mile hike from the Schoodic parking area. Black Mountain is also a popular destination, and is hiked from either the Schoodic parking area (2 miles), or from a trailhead off from the Black Mountain Road (1.2 miles). From these locations one can undertake a 10-mile loop that includes Rainbow Pond and Caribou Mountain. The trailheads to these destinations often overflow, with parking taking place along the access roads. However, access to this system can also be made from Redmans Beach, and from an informal, undesigned trail off the Dynamite Brook Road.



A small parking area has been provided at the intersection of the Flanders Pond Road and the Calais Branch trail corridor, providing a trailhead for visitors to nearby Schoodic Bog, an area owned and managed by the Frenchman Bay Conservancy. This parking will also provide a general access to the trail corridor once it is constructed.

Catherine Mountain is also within the Black-Caribou trail system, but is on private lands, and is accessed primarily from private land along the Route 182 Byway. The informal, undesignated trail on the Dynamite Brook Road also has a spur trail to the summit of Catherine.

Tunk Mountain and the collection of small ponds near its southern slopes north of Spring River Lake are accessed from a primitive trailhead, located along the Route 182 Byway opposite the Dynamite Brook Road. This informal trail system was in place prior to state ownership of the property, and includes portions of an old road system between Anderson Pond and Spring River Lake. There is also foot access to the Downing Bog area. Improvements to this system to address environmental and aesthetic concerns will need to be made prior to its official designation.

The hiking trail system throughout the Unit has significant expansion and connectivity potential, with opportunities to include Round Mountain (see description below), Catherine Mountain, and the Fiery Mountain/Little Pond area. A multi-day backpacking trip could also be undertaken, although this currently would require the use of adjacent private lands. In all there are more than 15 miles of designated trails, with the potential for an additional 15 miles.

Portions of the old logging road that connects the Black Mt. Road to the Dynamite Brook Road near the east shore of Donnell Pond has been used by a variety of motorized and non-motorized uses, although this area has been managed specifically for non-motorized uses. This area (pictured in red) is significant as it provides hiking connectivity from the Schoodic Beach public areas to the Black and Caribou Mt. trail system and the Redmans Beach use areas. This area also abuts the Ecological Reserve that surrounds the two mountains. It has also been the location of intensive fire and past logging practices, and is conducive to implementing forestry techniques that will enhance restoration the natural forest environment and “park” like qualities in consideration of the recreational use of the area.



*Other Potential Recreation Use Areas.* Three areas that could provide additional recreational opportunity on the Unit are the Tunk Stream outlet on Spring River Lake, Round Mountain, and the Fiery Mountain/Little Pond area. The outlet (pictured left) is an easy one-mile walk along an old logging road from Route 182 west of Long Pond. The site has received some informal



camping and fishing use, and otherwise makes a pleasant streamside picnic spot. Round Mountain provides some unique and attractive views (pictured right), with its summit located only one-half mile from Route 182, east of Long Pond. No trailhead or trail system has been in place to take advantage of this relatively easy hike, although there are indiscriminate





ATV trails along the summit. The Fiery Mountain-Little Pond area also contains a system of old roads, providing informal foot and snowmobile access to the summit and to the pond. This system also will require environmental and aesthetic improvements before being formally designated. There is also significant interest in incorporating this area for multiple trail use via the nearby Calais Branch trail corridor.

*Multiple Use/Motorized Trails.* There have been no designated ATV or snowmobile trails on the Unit, except along public use and management roads designated as “Shared Use.” However, the current inventory of Shared Use Roads within the Unit do not provide through-trail opportunities for recreational vehicles, as these were designed primarily to lead visitors to foot access only recreation areas. Shared Use Road designations has been applied to the Schoodic and Black Mountain public use roads off from Route 183, the Myrick Pond Road west of Fox Pond off the Route 182 Byway.

Portions of an old road network in the Spring River Lake parcel receives use by ATV’s, in particular for access to camp leases on Anderson Pond and to a camp east of Tilden Pond; ATV’s have also been used to access various fishing and hunting destinations throughout the parcel. These uses pre-existed the Bureau’s ownership of the property. The compatibility with this use as it relates to the Ecological Reserve designation has been an area of ongoing discussion since the Reserve designations took place in 2001. There is also significant motorized use of the existing trails into and near Fiery Mountain and Little Pond, much of which is in conjunction with use of the Calais Branch rail corridor, which passes through the southern portion of the Unit. This has led to extensive and unauthorized ATV use of the Little Pond area, where considerable damage to portions of the old road system and adjacent state-owned blueberry barren are in evidence.



The Department of Transportation’s legislative oversight committee approved of improvements to move forward on an 87-mile portion of the abandoned Calais Branch Rail Line, which will now be developed for motorized and non-motorized trail uses. The Bureau has been active in this project by participating in the development of a corridor management plan. The Bureau’s Off-Road Vehicle Division will manage the trail when it is built. The trail will be important in connecting communities from Ellsworth to Dennysville. The trail will also become a new access point into the Unit, particularly where it passes along the

blueberry barren in Franklin (pictured left), and where it crosses the access road to Flanders Pond to the east. The Bureau constructed a small parking area at this crossing, which provides parking for visitors to Schoodic Bog parcel owned by Frenchman Bay Conservancy, and will provide parking for future users of rail trail. The Bureau has expressed its ongoing interest in utilizing the Calais Branch trail corridor as a means to resolve ongoing motorized use problems in the area, by establishing a designated multiple use trail off from the corridor. This may include utilizing portions of the Fiery Mountain/Little Pond area for this purpose.

*Blackwoods Scenic Byway.* The Department of Transportation adopted a Blackwoods Scenic Byway corridor management plan in June 2005, which identifies important scenic, natural,

cultural, and recreation resources and opportunities along a 12.5 mile portion of Route 182 between Franklin and Cherryfield. Approximately 6 miles of the byway passes along or through the state ownership between these two towns. There are a number of areas along the byway that provide access to day use and camping destinations within the Unit. The Bureau's ongoing involvement with the Byway Plan Implementation Committee will ensure that the objectives for utilizing the resources along the byway are consistent with the objectives stated in this management plan. Several of these involve developing picnic sites and scenic vistas, improving access to the lakes, ponds, and trail systems, and providing educational materials its history and natural resources. One of the more significant challenges in regards to providing these enhancements is the traffic safety issues associated with Route 182 in general. The topography and curvature of the road, in conjunction with high speeds and the use of the road as a shorter alternative to Route 1, will be of primary concern while working with byway stewards. The Dynamite Brook Road, although originally constructed for forest management purposes, holds promise as an area that could be utilized to accomplish several of these goals.

*Visual Considerations.* The scenic quality throughout the Unit is a valuable resource (pictured left, Spring River Lake from Tunk Mt.); management for any purpose takes this into consideration, with respect to its enjoyment by the visiting public. The variety of ridgelines provides views of the entire unit, with few exceptions. There are also distant views of coastal bays and islands, lakes, ponds, cliffs and surrounding forestland well beyond the Unit. The views from the sand beaches on Donnell Pond are primarily of undeveloped shorelines and surrounding tree covered slopes; the conservation easements located on the northwest side of the pond were acquired to help protect the visual integrity of this area.



### ***Summary of Recreation and Visual Resource Management Issues and Concerns***

#### ***Day Use and Camping***

- Vandalism on Schoodic Beach (picnic tables, privies, and kiosks) and other unwanted activity, such as drinking parties and illegal ATV use, has increased over the years.
- The popularity of Schoodic Beach for day use and camping, as well as other areas around the Unit, has required that staff spend additional time on general maintenance.
- There is need to delineate group use camping areas that are separate from the smaller, family sites on Donnell Pond. Summer camps and other large groups are monopolizing camping areas on Redmans Beach.
- Camping setups on popular beach camping areas are often left for longer than the permitted stay established by rule (14 days in a 45 day period).
- There may be need for additional water access campsites on Tunk, Spring River Lake, and Long Pond.
- The Shillalah Pond campsite proposal identified in the 1991 Plan has been of low priority, and was never constructed.
- The designated day use area on Spring River Lake off from the Route 182 Byway was originally designed for the hand carry launching of boats, although it is rarely used for that purpose due to the steepness of the trail and distance from the parking area.
- There is interest in providing for a general day use area where the Long Pond tent platform rental sites are located.

### *Boating and Boat Launching*

- The Card Mill boat launching area receives a high level of use, with the parking area often overflowing onto the access road.
- There is no designated trailered boat launching site on Spring River Lake, although west of the day use area where it does occur is also a seasonally leased campsite. There are ongoing conflicts between public users and the lessees as a result of this, as well as environmental issues with the access road to the site.
- The existing trailered boat launching area on Long Pond off from Route 182 is unsafe and needs to be relocated.
- There is interest in providing a boat launching area on Round Pond, although road access is currently not suitable. The road also crosses onto an abutting private camp at the Unit boundary near the pond.
- The Bureau needs to coordinate with IF&W regarding the future management of the boat-launching/day use site on Tunk Lake; Bureau staff have provided some occasional maintenance of the site.
- There is interest in pursuing horsepower limits on various ponds on the Unit, including Shillalah, Rainbow, Long, Little Long, Salmon, and Tilden Ponds.

### *Non-motorized and Multiple Use Trails*

- Parking at the popular Big Chief trailhead on the Black Mountain road often overflows onto the road; the Schoodic parking and trailhead area often overflows as well.
- Trail renovations or relocation are needed along some sections of the informal Spring River Lake/Tunk Mt. hiking trail system, and along the spur trail from the Dynamite Brook Road to the summits of Caribou and Catherine Mountains. It is also needed to address various environmental and treadway concerns, and enhance or maximize the aesthetic qualities along the trail.
- There is an opportunity to link together the trail systems on the Unit and to develop a multi-day backpacking trip; but at present would require the use of private land to make those connections.
- There is interest in using the trails on the Unit for horseback riding; their use currently limited to “shared use” roads.
- The Calais Branch trail corridor is proposed for inclusion in the East Coast Greenway system..
- The old logging road near the east shore of Donnell Pond, from the Dynamite Brook Road to the Black Mt. public use road, receives occasional mountain bike and ATV use. The trail is not designated or authorized for motorized uses.
- Motorized vehicles (ATVs, jeeps, snowmobiles) are able to access the summit of Schoodic Mt. from abutting private land, which may negatively impact fragile areas identified, by the Maine Natural Areas Program.
- ATVs are accessing the summit of Round Mountain from abutting private land, which may negatively impact fragile areas identified by the Natural Areas Program.
- There is snowmobile and ATV trail use of the Spring River Lake/Tunk Lake parcel. ATV’s are also used to access the camp leases, and to access fishing and hunting areas.
- Many of the current “shared use” roads lead to foot access only destinations, and do not provide through-trail opportunities for ATV’s.

- There is considerable interest in developing a motorized trail that connects the former International Paper lands ATV trail system north of the Unit to the Calais Branch trail corridor on the south side of the Unit.
- The Calais Branch trail corridor will be developed as a multi-use trail for ATV, snowmobile, bicycle, horseback riding, and other uses. A portion of this corridor passes through the Unit near Little Pond, and will provide a new access point into the Unit..

#### *Blackwoods Scenic Byway*

- The Route 182 Scenic Byway Plan identifies public use opportunities on the Bureau lands within the corridor. The Byway currently lacks needed enhancements such as signage and information, privies, vistas, trailheads, picnic sites, and cultural interpretation.

#### *Potential Recreation Areas*

- The outlet of Tunk Stream (Spring River Lake) receives some recreational use, and could be designated for that purpose.
- No designated trail system exists to the summit of Round Mountain.
- No designated trail system exists to the summit of Fiery Mountain
- The Little Pond area provides potential for limited day use and camping.
- There is interest in providing motorized trail opportunities to the summit of Fiery Mountain and to Little Pond, particularly in conjunction with the Calais Branch trial corridor.

### ***TIMBER AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES***

The Unit has a greater history of fire than the other Units within the Plan area, often resulting in low quality stands where fires were especially intense, but also producing significant areas with high value species such as oak and pine. This combination of characteristics makes timber management challenging because of terrain constraints and the presence of important resource values. However, the species mix offers ample opportunity to grow high value timber products. Because of the many recreational destinations and mountain top views, the entire Unit requires visual consideration planning prior to any harvesting activities. For this reason, there have been no timber-dominant acres on the Unit, although one-third of the acres (approximately 5,000) are suitable and available for timber management, within certain restrictions and limitations.

#### Stand Type Characteristics:

Softwood types are generally found on the wettest and driest sites where there is limited fertility. On the best drained sites, the softwood stands are more sparsely stocked and of lower quality. However, many softwood areas are of good quality with stockings around the Bureau's statewide average at 20 to 30 cords per acre. There are also a high percentage of sawtimber quality trees, with much opportunity for managing for high value spruce and pine. Many trees in these stands are young enough to respond to the "release" a partial harvest would produce. The softwood component in the Redman Brook Valley portion of the Unit is of sufficient size and potential to be used for deer cover, although harvesting to increase its density would be necessary



Mixedwood types may be encountered on every site quality and drainage class found within the Plan area. Stocking of mixedwood is extremely variable, with some higher volume stands holding fine quality softwoods and occasional good quality hardwoods. Other stands are dominated by poor quality hardwoods with enough softwood component to characterize them as “mixed.” The Bureau typically manages for a variety of age classes; the well-stocked stands will be relatively easy to manage in this way as many are already in that condition, with others are moving toward it. The sparsely stocked areas tend to be two-aged or seedling/sapling stands, with time and several harvest entries, these stands could be converted to a multi-aged condition. The area east of Donnell Pond to the Ecological Reserve boundary meets this description. In general, where mixedwood stands occupy sites best suited for softwoods, the softwood should be favored and its regeneration encouraged.

With the exception of the area east of Donnell Pond, hardwood quality is quite limited within the Downeast Region, due mainly to the absence of high fertility soils; the Donnell Pond Unit is no exception. Hardwood stands in the Tunk Lake area occur in two types, one originating from relatively recent fires; the other from older burns or from other causes. The recent-origin burn stands tend toward sparse stocking of only 10-12 cords per acre, with other hardwood stands having 15-20 cords per acre. The form quality of these hardwoods tends to be poor and limby due to open growing conditions, though the scattering of spruce is well formed, along with some of intermixed oak and birch. The limited quality of most of these hardwood stands was further reduced by breakage resulting from the 1998 ice storm. Except where off-site hardwoods are shading healthy young softwoods, or where harvesting in nearby stands makes entry feasible, little timber management is needed in the hardwood areas in the near future.



Harvesting by the Bureau since acquisition has been limited to areas adjacent to the Dynamite Brook Road, which took place in 2003 and 2004, and in an area adjacent to the Thousand Road near Long Pond in 2006. A total of 518 acres were treated, with more than half the volume being low quality hardwood sent to the Domtar pulp mill in Baileyville. This volume qualified as “green certified wood” under the Forest Stewardship Council program..

### ***Summary of Management Issues and Concerns***

- Careful planning will be needed prior to any harvesting due to the challenging terrain and the visual resources found throughout the Unit.
- The area east of Donnell Pond would benefit from management due to past harvesting practices. The softwood in Redman Brook Valley could be managed in a way that provides winter cover for deer; particularly where there is a lack of this cover throughout the Unit.



## ***TRANSPORTATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS***

*Public Use and Management Roads, Gates, and Road Control.* Public access to and within the Unit is accomplished in a variety of ways:

- 1) The Card Mill boat launching area provides public boat access to Donnell Pond from the west. The launching area is accessed from the Donnell Pond Road off from Route 182 in Franklin. The Tunk Lake boat landing is an IF&W managed site, which provides boat access to the ownership and remote campsites along the lakeshore.
- 2) Improvements to 2¼ miles of public access/shared use road (Schoodic Beach Road) from Route 183 in Sullivan to the southeast portion of the Unit have been made since the adoption of the 1991 Plan. A parking lot at the end of this road provides foot access to the Schoodic Beach camping and day use area, and the nearby mountains. There are boulders across the north side of the parking lot to prevent motorized access to Schoodic Beach.
- 3) An additional 1½ miles of public access/shared use road (Black Mountain Road) has been improved off the Schoodic Beach Road to a parking lot trailhead to the summits of Black Mountain. Beyond this point, the road continues as a management road towards a timber prescribed area near Partridge Peninsula on the southwest portion of Tunk Lake. This road also provides access to the abutting private land.
- 4) There has been vehicle access into the Unit via the town-owned Punkinville Road off from Route 1. This road leads to the Flanders Pond area across private lands, then on to the Schoodic Beach Road. This section has been maintained somewhat by the Flanders Pond campowners, the predominant users of the road; however, it is in need of a significant upgrade. The Bureau does not intend to manage this as a public access road beyond Flanders Pond. The road also crosses the Calais Branch trail corridor. The Bureau has installed a small vehicle parking area at this crossing for future users of the corridor, and to access the Schoodic Bog property owned by the Frenchman Bay Conservancy.
- 5) Approximately 6 miles of the 12.5 mile stretch of state Route 182 between Franklin and Cherryfield passes through or along the Unit in T10 SD. Also known as the Blackwoods Scenic Byway, this important corridor provides various recreational access points to and within the Unit.
- 6) The Thousand Road is a management and shared use road located south of Route 182 between Long Pond and Tunk Lake, which provides vehicle access to the tent platform rental sites along the west shoreline of Long Pond, and to timber management areas. From Long Pond the road becomes impassible by two-wheel vehicles, where it continues for another one-half mile to the west side of Round Pond. The Thousand Road continues beyond the Long Pond spur for approximately one mile to the Unit boundary, and continues onto private land. Upgrades to this road will be accomplished through agreements with the abutting landowner resulting from timber management activities.
- 7) The two-mile Dynamite Brook Road, located south of Route 182 across from the west corner of Spring River Lake, is a management road, but no longer designated as a shared use road. This road was constructed through a joint agreement with the abutting landowner to facilitate the

transportation of forest products from both private and public lands. The road provides two wheeled vehicle access to non-motorized use areas west of Donnell Pond, including Redmans Beach and the Black Mountain/Caribou Mountain trail system.

8) A one half-mile stretch of management/shared use road begins on the north side of Route 182 west of Fox Pond, and continues onto former Haynes land now owned by The Nature Conservancy. This road had been used and maintained for transporting timber products prior to its conveyance, and has provided access to the 700-mile ATV trail system on private lands to the north.

### *Leases and Agreements*

1) The Bureau manages three residential camplot leases on the Unit, all in T10 SD. In each case, the leases were in place prior to acquisition by the Bureau; with the Bureau continuing them under its Camplot Leasing Program. One is located on Long Pond with road access from the Route 182 Byway; another is located on the southeast shoreline of Anderson Pond on the Spring River Lake parcel, with road access to private land north of the camp; and a third located east of Tilden Pond within the Tilden Block, with road access to private land similar to the Anderson Pond lessee. In the latter two cases, ATV's have been used to provide access beyond the vehicle parking area. Along the northern shoreline of Spring River Lake is a trail that leads to both camps.

2) The Bureau manages seven "tent platform" rental agreements in T10 SD that were also established by the previous landowner. One of these, located on Spring River Lake with drive-to access from the Route 182 Byway, has been converted to a campsite without tent platform and privy. Through the years, various members of the public have used this site for informal boat access or day use, which has caused occasional conflict with the lessee. The other six sites are along Long Pond, with tent platforms and privies in tact, and drive-to access (albeit rough) from the Thousand Road located off the Route 182 Byway. These rental agreements allow for use of the assigned sites for camping from May 1st through November 30<sup>th</sup>, and are renewable on a year-to-year basis. Lessees are responsible for maintenance of any structures and for the access to the sites.

3) A 100-acre blueberry barren south of Little Pond was actively managed prior to its acquisition by the Bureau in 2001. A blueberry specialist from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service surveyed the field and assessed its condition and management history in the summer of 2004. The report indicated an issue with thin soils on the upper portion of the field in need of recovery, and the need to perform maintenance on the lower fields to enhance productivity.

### *Boundary Lines*

Most of the Unit boundary lines have been established or reestablished; however, boundary lines that run along township and county lines will require some additional work, particularly the T10 SD and Cherryfield town line along the east side of the Unit.

### *Fire Control*

The Bureau's Integrated Resource Policy states "Wildfires occurring on or spreading to Bureau lands will be controlled" (pages 12-17). The Bureau will continue to coordinate with the Maine Forest Service in planning for the prevention and control of forest fires on the lands that it

manages. Such efforts will be undertaken on a regional basis, to ensure Bureau staff can respond adequately and quickly to fire emergencies.

#### *Administrative Structures*

The abandoned camp near Schoodic Beach (Camp Chaos as it has been known) was used by seasonal work crews developing the hiking trail system during the 1990's, and has not been used since that time. The camp is too dilapidated to be restored. There is another camp on Little Pond, which receives some unauthorized use and is also in poor condition. Both camps were in place when the State acquired the properties, and no record of current or previous agreements for use of the camps exists.

#### ***Summary of Transportation and Administrative Management Issues***

- Updated road maintenance agreements (Card Mill, Flanders Pond) are needed to meet future repair and maintenance needs.
- The tent platform rental sites on Long Pond and Spring River Lake are in areas where there are also recreational use interests from members of the public. The public/private use conflict is particularly evident at site on Spring River Lake.
- It is unclear as to the bounds of the tent platform rental area on Long Pond.
- The blueberry barren near Little Pond was once commercially managed; the lower portion of the fields are now in need of maintenance; the upper portion is fragile and in need of protection.
- The old camp buildings near Schoodic Beach and Little Pond are in poor repair and not authorized for use, and have little administrative value.
- The property/township boundary line along the east side of the Ecological Reserve on the Spring River Lake parcel needs to be reestablished to deter potential encroachments.

### **3. Resource Allocations and Management Recommendations**

The following resource allocation categories are listed in the order they appear in the allocation summary on page 10 in the Integrated Resource Policy and page 5 of this document.

#### ***SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (see map DPI)***

***Special Protection as a Dominant Use.*** The Special Protection allocation as a dominant use will apply to the following areas:

- The Ecological Reserve east of Donnell Pond that includes Black Mountain and Caribou Mountain
- The Ecological Reserve north of Spring River Lake that includes the southern slope of Tunk Mountain.
- The Low Summit Bald plant communities on Schoodic Mountain and Round Mountain
- The dwarf shrub bog between Spring River Lake and Long Pond.
- Eagle nesting sites

There are no historic or cultural resources within this Unit that require Special Protection status.

***Secondary Uses Within Special Protection Areas.*** The areas designated as Ecological Reserves are also suitable for Non-mechanized Backcountry Recreation, an allowed secondary use within reserve areas. Recreation activities include hiking, primitive camping, and canoeing on Tunk Stream. Hunting, fishing, and trapping are also allowed uses in these areas.

Special Use Permits will be issued to the two residential camplot owners on the Spring River Lake parcel for the purpose of allowing and limiting ATV access to and from the camps on the existing trail system. The use of ATV's for any other purpose will not be permitted on this parcel.

#### ***Management Recommendations***

- Monitor recreational uses within the Ecological Reserves and other special protection areas for potential conflicts with and impacts to the values and resources being protected. A Special Use Permit will be issued for access to camplots within the Ecological Reserve on Anderson Pond and east of Tilden Pond, and for no other purpose.
- Efforts will be made to prevent ATV use on the summit of Schoodic Mountain, to protect the rare plant communities; efforts will be made to prevent or control ATV use on Round Mountain., to protect important plant communities on the open balds.
- The high ground of the blueberry barren near Little Pond has thin and fragile soils. This area will be protected to allow the soils to recover. The lower portion of the fields will be managed using organic farming principles

## ***BACKCOUNTRY RECREATION AREAS (see map DP2)***

***Backcountry Recreation as a Dominant Use.*** The Non-mechanized Backcountry allocation as a dominant use has been applied to a 257-acre area where it abuts the northern boundary of the Ecological Reserve on Caribou Mt., to near the 600 foot contour line and the LURC-zoned P-RR.

***Backcountry as a Secondary Use.*** The Non-mechanized Backcountry allocation as a secondary use allocation will be applied to the 1,940 acres within the Black/Caribou Mt. Ecological Reserve and the 4,010 acres within the Spring River Lake/Tunk Mt. Ecological Reserve, all of which are within Special Protection areas.

### ***Management Recommendations***

- Expand the original 1,940-acre Non-mechanized Backcountry area in Black and Caribou Mountains to include the north slope of Caribou Mountain to the 600' contour, adding an additional 257 acres.
- Develop a hiking trail/backpacking network within the Unit that connects Tunk, Black, Caribou, Schoodic, and Fiery Mountains. Work with the abutting landowner regarding hiking use of Catherine Mountain, Schoodic Nubble, and portions of Tunk Mt., and include in this network where possible. Develop and utilize partnerships in managing and maintaining this system.
- Adopt the existing Spring River Lake/Tunk Mountain trail system; implement environmental improvements and aesthetic enhancements where necessary.
- Explore opportunities to provide additional campsites along the ponds, lakes, and trails within the Unit.

## ***WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS (see map DP3)***

***Wildlife Management as a Dominant Use.*** The Wildlife allocation as a dominant use has been applied to the shoreline of rivers, streams, brooks, and certain wetland areas not already allocated as Special Protection. This includes 75 foot or 330 foot riparian buffers (depending on size and scope of water body being protected) along shorelines.

***Secondary uses within Wildlife Dominant Areas.*** These uses include primitive or remote recreation activities, such as hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, sight-seeing, and wildlife watching. Timber management is an important secondary use, and will be permitted in areas where it will enhance or encourage the development and maintenance of the natural forest habitat.

### ***Management Recommendations***

- Monitor the Downing Bog wetland complex for waterfowl, wading birds, and bald eagles.
- Monitor the Tunk Mountain area for nesting raptors.
- Manage eagle nesting areas as essential habitat.
- Manage riparian areas to maintain or establish multi-aged forest stands as habitat, and to protect the shoreline and travel corridors for the wide variety of wildlife species dependant on these areas.
- Consult with the IF&W Regional Biologist regarding recent bald eagle nesting activity on the southern shore of Spring River Lake, near the inlet from Tunk Lake.
- Work towards enhancing the softwood component within the Redman Brook Valley area east of Donnell Pond for its potential as a deer wintering area.

## ***REMOTE RECREATION AREAS (see map DP2)***

***Remote Recreation as a Dominant Use.*** The Remote Recreation allocation as a dominant use has been applied to the area from the east shoreline of Donnell Pond to the boundary of the Black-Caribou Mt. Ecological Reserve/Backcountry area; Schoodic Mountain and its associated hiking trail network; the Fiery Mountain/Little Pond area; and Round Mountain and its north slope.

***Remote Recreation as a Secondary Use.*** The Remote Recreation allocation as a secondary use has been applied to the shorelines of Donnell Pond, Tunk Lake, Spring River Lake, Shillalah Pond, Round Pond, Long Pond, and Little Pond. This allocation compliments the wildlife riparian zones that have been allocated as dominant use along these shorelines.

***Secondary Uses within Remote Recreation areas.*** These uses include timber management where it meets the objectives of the wildlife management program, is compatible with restoring or enhancing the natural forest landscape, or where it addresses safety issues within public use areas.

### ***Management Recommendations***

- Manage the area east of Donnell Pond to the boundary of the Ecological Reserve as a Remote Recreation area. This allocation is in recognition of the areas' "park like" qualities as it relates to the popularity and enjoyment of nearby public use areas and adjoining hiking trail system. Recreational enhancements will include improvements to the pedestrian trail between the Dynamite Brook Road and further delineation of the Redmans Beach area. Snowmobile and ATV use will not be allowed. Timber management will be permitted as a secondary use for the purpose of restoring the natural forest landscape, to enhance its "park like" quality.
- Look for ways to accommodate large group uses that reduces monopolization of the Redmans Beach area.
- Prevent use of the road system to Little Pond and adjacent areas by motorized vehicles to correct environmental issues.
- Provide facilities for camping and day use on Little Pond, explore a similar opportunity on the Tunk Stream outlet.
- Develop a hiking trail to the summit of Round Mountain and Fiery Mountain.
- Explore biking and horseback riding opportunities within the Unit.

## ***VISUAL CONSIDERATION AREAS***

Unless otherwise allocated, Visual Class II (background views) will apply throughout the Unit with respect to the Unit's visibility from high ground areas. Visual Class I (foreground views) will apply to all public use roads and public use areas.

## ***DEVELOPED RECREATION AREAS (see map DP2)***

***Developed Recreation as a Dominant Use.*** The Developed Class I allocation (where more intensely developed recreation facilities may be found) as a dominant use has been applied to the following areas:

- All public use roads within the Unit
- The Schoodic Beach parking, trailhead, and beach area
- Trailhead enhancements to access trail systems along the Route 182 Byway
- The Big Chief trailhead on the Black Mountain Road
- The day use/hand-carry launching site on Spring River Lake
- The abutting corridor along the Route 182 Blackwoods Scenic Byway
- Boat launching sites on Spring River Lake and Long Pond
- The Card Mill boat launching area on Donnell Pond
- A multiple use trail from the Calais Branch trail corridor to the riparian area of Little Pond, and to the summit of Fiery Mt.; that accommodates motorized and non-motorized uses.

### ***Management Recommendations***

- Provide on-site supervision of the popular public use areas where necessary to deter the negative uses that have occurred, particularly on Schoodic Beach. This area in particular will be managed similar to a state park, with respect to the more dispersed forms of recreation available nearby.
- Further delineate the use areas on Schoodic Beach to eliminate camping on the beach itself, and to accommodate day use of the beach in a more efficient manner.
- Explore opportunities to provide enhancements along the Route 182 Scenic Byway consistent with the goals of the Blackwoods Scenic Byway Plan, and with the management goals of the Donnell Pond Unit. This includes looking for ways to provide sanitation, access to water bodies, picnic areas, scenic overlooks, and interpretive materials. Utilize byway partners (landowners, local and county governments, trail groups, etc.) to assist in attaining this goal.
- Develop or improve trailheads along Route 182 that provide access to the hiking trail systems on either side of the byway.
- Develop or improve boat launching opportunities on Long Pond and Spring River Lake that provide a level of access consistent with historic use. This includes the relocation of the existing launch site on Long Pond to eliminate the ongoing traffic safety hazards, and the establishment of a trailered launching area on Spring River Lake.
- Monitor and make improvements as needed to the Card Mill boat launching site to address any safety, environmental concerns. Improvements to this area will not include expansion of the current facilities.
- Monitor and assess potential use impacts from the development of the Calais Branch trail corridor. Look at the feasibility of develop a multiple use trail from the corridor to the summit of Fiery Mountain. Utilize trail groups and trail clubs to assist in the development and maintenance of this system.
- Assist local clubs in developing or locating a motorized trail that connects the Calais Branch trail corridor to the ATV trail system on private lands north of the Unit.
- Work with the Bureau's Off-Road Vehicle Division and trail interests in the ongoing development and management of the Calais Branch trail corridor where it impacts the Unit.



## ***TIMBER MANAGEMENT AREAS (see map DP4)***

***Timber Management as a Dominant Use.*** No areas within the Donnell Pond Unit are allocated as Timber Dominant.

***Timber Management as a Secondary Use.*** With respect to the Visual I and higher allocations, approximately one-third of the total acres within the Unit will be available for timber management as a secondary use.

### ***Management Recommendations***

- Manage timber in the area east of Donnell Pond to the Ecological Reserve boundary consistent with its Remote Recreation designation. Timber harvesting will be directed towards developing the natural forest landscape and “park like” character of the area, in recognition of nearby popular use areas. Due to its extensive harvesting history, management will be restorative in nature, taking place primarily on winter ground. This recommendation includes work with the Wildlife Program in managing the Redman Brook Valley area to enhance softwood cover for wintering deer.
- Where permitted, management should favor high value (both for timber and wildlife) and longer lived species such as pine, spruce and oak. Where soils are more fertile, maples, ash, hemlock, and beech are also species worth consideration. The objectives will include growing high value timber products, chiefly sawlogs and veneer, while maintaining visual integrity and enhancing the diversity of wildlife habitat.

## ***TRANSPORTATION AND ADMINSTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS***

### ***Management Recommendations***

- Update the road use and maintenance agreements with the Flanders Pond and Donnell Pond campowners.
- Remove the old camp at Schoodic Beach, determine the use and status of the Little Pond camp.
- Correct environmental issues with the road from the Route 182 Byway to the private campsite rental area on Spring River Lake.
- Further delineate the tent platform rental area on Long Pond; work with rentees in upgrading privies.
- Establish a commercial lease with an organic blueberry grower for management of the barrens adjacent the Calais Branch trail corridor near Little Pond.
- Reestablish the property/township boundary line along the east side of the ecological reserve on the Spring River Lake parcel to prevent possible encroachment by abutting land owners.